

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 6, please amend the paragraph beginning on line 14 as follows:

According to the illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 2, the present invention--in its first preferred concretion--comprises a semi-automatic dispensing ~~mechanism~~ device (1), defined as a box (2) exhibiting an half moon or semi-circular shape ~~(2)~~, whose straight section is facing the rear side, where it includes a fastening plate (3) for the ensemble in an adequate place, whilst the curved section is facing the front. Its superior section includes a vertically assembled tubular ~~drawer~~ compartment (4), which should be preferably transparent, with a top lid (5). This configures the compartment for several common disposable cups, arranged with their mouths facing downwards. The bottom of this compartment is axially aligned with another ordinarily vertical and tubular and ~~vertical~~-section (6), which constitutes the exit for the cups to be dispensed by the semi-automatic dispensing device (1).

On pages 6-7, please amend the paragraph bridging pages 6-7 as follows:

The dispensing device (1), as already mentioned, comprises one box (2) exhibiting an half moon or semi-circular shape—~~(2)~~. As represented in detail in FIGS. 3 and 4, this box includes an horizontally plane superior wall (7), semi-circular, contoured by a substantially short vertical wall (8), under which fits itself another plane section comprised of a plate exhibiting an half moon shape (9), which by its turn, closes the semi-circular box (2). Above this mentioned plate (9), exists another sliding diaphragm-plate (10) which, at its rear edge, includes an articulation bolt (11), and at its front edge exhibits an extension which configures the digital handle (12), radially projected to the outside through a slot (13) formed by a cutting in the wall (8). This cutting exhibits sufficient extension so that the mentioned diaphragm-plate (10) can be moved in an angular way from one side to the other, establishing or not the alignment between its circular opening (14) and two other circular openings (15) and (16), that exist in the wall (7) and in the closure section (9). These are respectively aligned with

the tubular compartment (4) and the tubular ~~exit~~ section (6). The alignment of the opening (14) is established by the slot (13), whose length is also sufficient for the diaphragm-plate (10) to be displaced so that its blind section (17) can be placed between both circular openings (15) and (16). Over the diaphragm-plate (10) is fastened a part exhibiting an horseshoe shape (18), whose open ends or extremities--besides having their heights funnel-shaped--face the blind section (17), while in the opposite side, great part of its extension contours the mentioned opening (14). As illustrated in FIG. 5, this mentioned horseshoe (18) exhibits a special cross-section, in detail, the whole extension of its internal border is contoured by a tread or progressive advanced border (19), which is responsible for the separation of the cup to be dispensed in the inner side of the tubular section (6). This tubular section (6) exhibits the shape of an half tube, whose bottom end is narrower, and over which exists median peg (20).

On pages 7-8, please amend the paragraph bridging pages 7-8 as follows:

As illustrated in FIG. 6, the operation of the ensemble is really simple, and the dotted lines represent the movement of the dispensed cup. Before describing this details, it is possible to observe that the cups (C) are arranged with their openings facing downwards in the inner side of the compartment (4). In a first condition, showed in the detail of FIG. 6, the diaphragm-plate (10) is displaced so that its blind section (17) is positioned over the opening (16). Consequently, the stack of cups remains leaned against this mentioned blind section (17) of the plate (10), being hindered from moving down. To dispense one cup, the mentioned diaphragm-plate (10) is displaced through its digital handle (12) until its opening (14) becomes axially aligned with the opening (16). This movement is limited by certain construction details, mainly the slot (13). During this sliding movement of the diaphragm-plate (10), the horseshoe shaped part (18) promotes the selection or simply separates the first bottom cup from the others. In other words, the border (19) fits itself between the first and second cup from the bottom to the top, forcing the first cup so that it releases itself from the cup immediately above. In this condition, the cups--or the stack of cups--remain leaned against the thread or border (19), whilst

only the first cup is positioned bellow the mentioned border.

When the alignment between the holes (14) and (16) is completed, the first cup is released sliding down through the length of part (6) by simple free fall, descending with its mouth downwards.

But, as it touches the peg (20), it tends to turn to the outside, in a 180.degree. rotation. This occurs due to the conic shape of the mentioned cup, whose mouth exhibits a greater diameter. The cup remains inside the ~~part~~ tubular section (6), whose bottom extremity exhibits a slight funneling, sufficient to retain the mentioned cup in the upright position, so that the user can pick it up already in the usage position.

On pages 8-9, please amend the paragraph bridging pages 8-9 as follows:

a) a semi-automatic dispensing mechanism (50), defined as a box (51) exhibiting parallelepipedic shape ~~(51)~~ and reduced height, whose rear section includes fastening means (52) for the ensemble in appropriate place;

On page 9, please amend the paragraph beginning on line 13

as follows:

e) the rectangular lid (59) exhibits a circular central opening (60). One side of this opening is axially aligned with the ~~upper~~ central opening (56), whilst the bottom side includes a collar (61) forming the continuity of the passage (P)--or exit--for the cups to be dispensed by the semi-automatic dispensing device (1);

On page 9, please amend the paragraph beginning on line 21 as follows:

g) a diaphragm (63) assembled in a sliding way in the inner section of the box (51). This diaphragm is formed by a plate (64) in which one extremity exhibits a blind section (65), whilst in the opposite extremity exhibits a section with an opening (66), whose diameter is compatible with the openings (56-60) and with the mouth diameter of the cup (C) to be dispensed. The mentioned blind section (65) is cooperative so that it can be positioned in two ways, outside or between the two openings (56-60). In the second position it actuates as closing and support for the stack

of cups (C) to be dispensed, whilst the ~~hollowed out section~~
opening (66) can also be positioned in two ways, outside or
between the openings (56,60). In the second position occurs a
perfect axial alignment between the openings (56), (60) and (66),
so that the cup (C) to be dispensed is able to pass through the
inner section of the receiving drawer (62);

On page 11, please amend the paragraph beginning on line 16
as follows:

In relation to FIGS. 13 and 14, according to a constructive
variation, the ~~terminals~~ branches (78) of the horseshoe shaped
part (67) exhibit their upper face (84) parallel to the bottom
face, the other constructive details remaining unchanged. In this
case, the height (y) renders only to guide a greater number of
cups (C) during diaphragm operation (63).

On page 12, please amend the paragraph beginning on line 8
as follows:

The operation of the device according to the second

preferred concretion is equally simple, according to the illustrated in FIGS. 15, 16 and 17, where the dotted lines represent the movement of the dispensed cup. But before describing this details, it is possible to observe that a stack of cups is arranged with their mouths facing downwards in the inner section of the ~~compartment~~ drawer (53). In a first condition, illustrated in FIG. 10, the diaphragm plate (63) is displaced so that its blind section (65) is positioned over the opening (60). Consequently, the stack of cups (C) remains leaned against this mentioned blind section (65) of the plate (64), being hindered from moving down. To dispense one cup, the mentioned diaphragm plate (63-64) is displaced through its digital handle (73) to overcome the pressure of the springs (75) until its opening (66) becomes axially aligned with the opening (60). This movement is limited by certain construction details, mainly the slot (74). During this sliding movement of the diaphragm-plate (63), this horseshoe shaped part (67) promotes the selection or simply separates the first bottom cup (C1) from the others. In other words, the rim (68) fits itself between the first (C1) and second cup (C2) from the bottom to the top, forcing the first cup so that it releases itself from the cup

immediately above (C2). In this condition, the stack of cups remains leaned against the rim (68), whilst only the first cup is positioned bellow the mentioned border (FIG. 17). But, when the alignment between the openings (66) and (60) is completed, the first cup (C1) is released to slide down and through the length of the drawer (62) by simple free fall, descending with its mouth downwards. But (FIG. 15) as it touches the peg (86), it tends to turn to the outside, making a 180.degree. turn. This occurs due to the conic shape of the mentioned cup. Its mouth, exhibiting a greater diameter, remains inside the part (62), whose inferior extremity exhibits a slight funneling, sufficient to retain the mentioned cup in the upright position, so that the user can pick it up already in the usage position. In this moment that lever (73) is not manually operated anymore and, therefore, the springs (75) make the diaphragm (63) return to its original position, the one illustrated in FIG. 16. In this position the complete inner section of the device remains adequately closed, avoiding the penetration of insects and dust. And the device will be ready for a new operation.